

This title may be cited as the "Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1998".

The CHAIRMAN. Are there further amendments to this portion of the bill?

The Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

TITLE IV—RELATED AGENCIES

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME

For expenses necessary for the Armed Forces Retirement Home to operate and maintain the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and the United States Naval Home, to be paid from funds available in the Armed Forces Retirement Home Trust Fund, \$71,777,000, of which \$16,325,000 shall remain available until expended for construction and renovation of the physical plants at the United States Soldiers' and Airmen's Home and the United States Naval Home.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. DICKEY] having assumed the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2264) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO INCLUDE EXTRANEOUS MATERIAL ON H.R. 2264, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert in the RECORD extraneous material on H.R. 2264 relating to the issue of school reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

REPORT ON PAYMENTS MADE TO CUBA PURSUANT TO CUBAN DEMOCRACY ACT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 105-127)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

This report is submitted pursuant to 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6) (the "CDA"), as amended by section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, Public Law 104-114 (March 12, 1996), 110 Stat. 785, 22 U.S.C. 6021-91 (the "LIBERTAD Act"), which requires that I report to the Congress on a semiannual basis de-

tailing payments to Cuba by any United States person as a result of the provision of telecommunications services authorized by this subsection.

The CDA, which provides that telecommunications services are permitted between the United States and Cuba, specifically authorizes the President to provide for payments to Cuba by license. The CDA states that licenses may be issued for full or partial settlement of telecommunications services with Cuba, but may not require any withdrawal from a blocked account. Following enactment of the CDA on October 23, 1992, a number of U.S. Telecommunications companies successfully negotiated agreements to provide telecommunications services between the United States and Cuba consistent with policy guidelines developed by the Department of State and the Federal Communications Commission.

Subsequent to enactment of the CDA, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) amended the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 515 (the "CACR"), to provide for specific licensing on a case-by-case basis for certain transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba, 31 C.F.R. 515.542(c), including settlement of charges under traffic agreements.

The OFAC has issued eight licenses authorizing transactions incident to the receipt or transmission of telecommunications between the United States and Cuba since the enactment of the CDA. None of these licenses permits payments to the Government of Cuba from a blocked account. For the period January 1 through June 30, 1997, OFAC-licensed U.S. carriers reported payments to the Government of Cuba in settlement of charges under telecommunications traffic agreements as follows:

AT&T Corporation (formally, American Telephone and Telegraph Company)	\$13,997,179
AT&T de Puerto Rico	274,470
Global One (formerly, Sprint Incorporated)	4,857,205
IDB WorldCom Services, Inc. (formerly, IDB Communications, Inc.)	1,427,078
MCI International, Inc. (formerly, MCI Communications Corporation) ...	4,066,925
Telefonica Larga Distancia de Puerto Rico, Inc.	113,668
WilTel, Inc. (formerly, WilTel Underseas Cable, Inc.)	5,032,250
WorldCom, Inc. (formerly, LDDS Communications, Inc.)	1,378,502
Total	31,143,432

I shall continue to report semiannually on telecommunications payments to the Government of Cuba from United States persons.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, September 10, 1997.

□ 1815

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

VACATION OF SPECIAL ORDER AND GRANTING OF SPECIAL ORDER

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] and to proceed at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DICKEY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO THE HELLENIC DANCERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PAPPAS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest strengths of our great Nation is the diversity of our people, cultural, religions, and heritage. Every American has a story to tell of where their family is from. Whether you can trace your roots back to a particular native American tribe or to another country, maybe across the sea, many of us seek out ways to preserve what has been passed down to us so that we may pass it along to the next generation.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Hellenic Dancers of New Jersey, a group that has dedicated themselves to perpetuating Greek culture through dance. For those of us, including myself, that are of Greek ancestry, the service this group provides is invaluable. Aside from performing the dances of Greece, the Hellenic Dancers are committed to researching, documenting and educating others in the Greek heritage.

The dancers are a group of Greek descendants that travel each week without compensation from every part of central and northern New Jersey to perform and share the Greek culture. They have also ventured outside of New Jersey, from coast to coast in this Nation, with their music and dance recognizing the spirit of Greeks that have gone before, the Greeks that have brought so much to this country, and those Greek-Americans living here today.

Over the past 25 years, the group has grown tremendously. What began with a few members now numbers well into the hundreds of selfless individuals who share the songs, dances, and traditions that have been passed along to them.

Greece has survived through a great deal of turmoil over the years and has reached maturity because its people, proud, freedom-loving, God-fearing and peaceful, have nourished and upheld the ideals on which their nation was founded. It is this heritage that we, the